Attorney Docket No.:   PATENTS
LYRN004US0   Customer No. 37,141

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and
listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method
including:

    receiving a message;

    asserting whether the message is in a selected
application format;

    if the message is not in the selected application
format:

        routing the message to a next location; and

    if the message is in the selected format:

        routing the message to a selected application
processor;

        processing the message by the selected application
processor; and

    routing the message to the next location.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein
receiving the message includes receiving a packet.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein
receiving the packet includes receiving the packet from a
network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein
receiving the packet from a network includes receiving the
packet from a packet switched network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the
network is the Internet.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein
    ascertaining whether the message is in a selected
application format includes ascertaining whether the message
is encrypted; and
    processing the message by the selected application
processor includes decrypting the message by the selected
application processor.

7. (Previously Presented) An information-processing system
comprising:
    a fabric configured for communication with a network;
    a plurality of application services devices;
    wherein the plurality of application service devices are
configured to receive a plurality of unprocessed application-
specific messages from the fabric;
    wherein each unprocessed application-specific message is
configured to be processed by a particular application;
wherein the fabric is adapted to route each of the plurality
of unprocessed application-specific messages to an
application service device adapted to process the message
with the particular application;
    wherein the plurality of application service devices are
further configured to process the unprocessed application-
specific messages in parallel, wherein each unprocessed
application-specific message is processed with the particular
application for which it is configured, whereby a plurality
of processed application-specific messages is produced; and
    wherein the plurality of application service devices are
further configured to send the each processed application-
specific message to the fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system
of Claim 7, wherein each message comprises a packet.

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9. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 8, wherein each application service device comprises a hardware state machine.

10. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of application service devices are included in a single integrated circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein each application service device comprises a simple programmable processor.

12. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises a plurality of interoperably configured distinct physical devices.

13. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises an SSL/TLS processor.

14. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of unprocessed application-specific messages comprises an unprocessed application stream, and wherein the plurality of processed application-specific messages comprises a processed application stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an SSL/TLS connection between a web browser and a web server.

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16. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system
of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an e-
mail transfer.

17. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system
of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a
virtual private networking communication.

18. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system
of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a TCP
offload engine communication.

19. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method,
including:
     receiving a message;
     after receiving the message: ascertaining whether the
message is susceptible to be processed by a particular
application;
     if the message is susceptible to be processed by the
particular application:
          routing the message to an application service
device that is adapted to use the particular application to
process the message;
     after routing the message to the application service
device: processing the message by the application service
device using the particular application;
     after processing the message: routing the message to a
next location; and if the message is not an application-
specific message: routing the message to the next location.

20. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method
of Claim 19, wherein the particular application comprises a
decryption application, and wherein a message susceptible to

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by processed by the particular application comprises an
encrypted message.

21. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method
of Claim 20, wherein the message is a packet.

22. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method,
including:

    a first iteration of the method of Claim 19;

    a second iteration of the method of Claim 19;

    wherein the receiving a message of the second iteration
corresponds to the routing of the message to the next
location of the first iteration, whereby the message is
processed in a pipeline fashion.

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